

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 7-9 following "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" with the following amended paragraph:

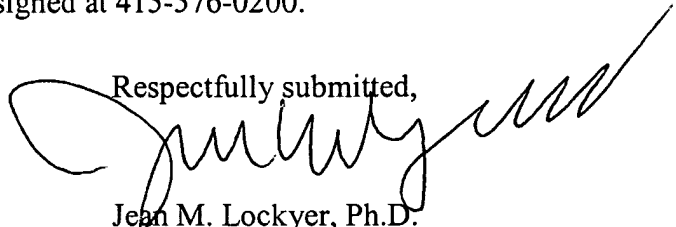
This application [claims priority to US application, serial no. (no yet assigned), having the same title and inventors, filed Mar 18, 1999] is a continuation of US Application No. 09/273,098, filed March 19, 1999, which claims benefit of U.S. Application No. 60/125,591, filed March 18, 1999. Slit compositions are subject to claims in copending US application, serial no. 09/191,647, having the same assignee[:].

Appl. No.
Amdt. dated November 24, 2003
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean M. Lockyer', is written over the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Jean M. Lockyer, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 44,879

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
JML:jml
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